

ABSTRACT

A harvester suitable for triple windrowing operations has a cross-conveyor located behind the harvesting header for intercepting a stream of severed materials projected rearwardly from the header as the machine moves through the field. The cross-conveyor may be maintained in a raised or lowered position independently of the header so that, when the cross-conveyor is raised, the stream of severed materials from the header can be projected straight back underneath the raised conveyor to fall onto the ground generally in line with the header. For triple windrowing, a first pass is made with the cross-conveyor raised so that the first deposit is made directly behind the header on the mowed strip of the first pass. The first pass is carried out at a distance inwardly from the uncut edge of standing materials that is equal to or less than the width of the header so that a band of standing materials is left along one side of the mowed strip and the main remaining body of standing materials is presented along the other side. During the second pass, either through the main body or the band of materials depending upon the direction at which the cross-conveyor is angled rearwardly, the cross-conveyor is in its lowered position so as to intercept the stream of materials from the header, convey them laterally, and project them into a second deposit of material in the mowed strip from the first pass. The third pass is then made with the cross-conveyor also in a lowered position to form a third deposit of materials in the first mowed strip. When all three passes are complete, a total of three deposits of material are presented in the mowed strip from the first pass. An extension conveyor in the discharge area of the cross-conveyor accelerates the crop materials and is cocked upwardly to provide additional loft to the materials, thus enabling the materials to travel the extra distances needed to carry out the triple windrowing process.